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CAIRO, ILLINOIS, MONDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 15, 1909.

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# FOUR HUNDRED MEN IMPRISONED IN MINE MAY BE SAVED ALIVE

## Earth Shocks Felt, Believed Men Are Signalling They Are Still Alive

## THRILLING STORY OF WORK OF 14 HEROIC RESCUERS

### Only One of Whom Survived the Ordeal--Miner Who Had Narrow Escape Tells Graphic Story --Officials Decide to Open Shaft--Mine Best Equipped in the Country

Cherry, Ill., Nov. 14.—Nearly four hundred human beings, men and boys, it is now feared, are dead or perishing in the St. Paul mine here, though Henry Burke, an official of the mine, today reported to President A. J. Earling of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railway that farmers whose land is over the southern end of the mine, felt several concussions of the earth this afternoon and that the men who felt these shocks were convinced that the shocks were from shots fired by the imprisoned miners to signal that they are still alive, Burke's informant was John Reid, son of one of the imprisoned men. Burke went at once to Earling and has not slept since arriving on the scene of the accident.

Earling is hopeful. "The men report," said Burke, "that the signals were distinct and were meant for assurance that at least some of the men are alive."

"Oh, I hope so," said Earling. "That is at least encouraging."

Experts who penetrated the smoke filled air shaft to a depth of three hundred feet today with a ray of hope for the relatives of the entombed miners.

That the fire has been extinguished is the conclusion of the mining experts and inspectors sent here by Gov. Deneen to investigate.

For more than thirty hours the imprisoned men have been cut off from fresh air and undoubtedly have been subjected to the smoke which filled the veins of the mine. That life could exist under such conditions apparent is doubted by many, but because of no trace of high temperature was found in the depths of the mine tonight, it is hoped the miners may have found safety in the remote recesses of the mine.

**More Apparatus Ordered.**  
After a third attempt to explore conditions today, R. Y. Williams, of Urbana, Ill., of the United States Geological Survey, who superintended the work of the volunteer explorers, protected with oxygen caps and apparatus, telegraphed to Urbana for more of the apparatus.

This is expected to arrive early tomorrow and a score of men have volunteered to accompany the experts and mining inspectors into the air shaft which was opened late today. Three times Williams and Henry Smith, a volunteer were lowered into the mine in buckets. Each time they succeeded in penetrating deeper and were assured that the temperature was bearable. Though to open the sealed main shaft and exit of the mine was impossible today as it was last night with smoke which smothered the flames into the smoldering embers yet remaining, the state inspectors here, among them James Taylor, of Peoria, David Ross of Springfield, Henry Hudson of Galva, and others, announced to Mine Inspector Steele that they felt assured that definite results could be secured tomorrow.

**Will Explore Further.**  
When the explorations were abandoned tonight, it was announced that men fitted with oxygen armor would resume operations as early as possible.

A list of the missing was compiled today, and reached the total of 385, including the dead, whose charred bodies were taken from the burning cages Saturday afternoon. It is declared probable that this list might be increased.

A hundred and seventy men who entered the mine Saturday morning have been accounted for. The company had scores of tracers at work today rounding up the employees and at nightfall the officials admitted that the number of men in the mine, dead

The smoke was growing more dense every foot I progressed and my courage was fast growing. I pulled my coat closely about my face and bending closely to the rail struggled on.

"I escaped death by just three minutes. When I arrived at the bottom of the shaft the last cage was about to ascend. I shouted as the signal bell was ringing and two men broke their way to me and dragged me to the cage. I then lost consciousness and when I came to I was safely on top.

"My buddy had followed closely all the way out and encouraged by the light held by the cage man, managed to reach the shaft and was carried with me to safety."

**Tobacco Sack Saves Lives.**  
A tobacco sack was the means of saving the lives of John Phillips and Edward Suffolk, miners in the second vein. Phillips on his way to the shaft found Suffolk lying on the track in the main entry. He dragged the form of his comrade until he himself was almost overcome by the smoke.

He searched for something to cover his nose and mouth. The only thing available was a small sack in which he had tobacco. Emptying it he put one end in his mouth and pulled the rest of it over his nose and fastened it about his head with the string. By crawling with his head close to the rail, he struggled toward the shaft dragging his almost lifeless comrade with him.

One of the pathetic incidents of the rescue work was the saving of John McGill and his young son. They left the place where they were working when the alarm was given and before half the journey was completed the boy began to grow dizzy. Clinging his father's hand he sank to his knees, exclaiming weakly:

**Saved His Son.**  
"Although greatly weakened the father took the now unconscious son and taking off his belt, strapped the boy on his back and struggled on. Within sight of the shaft he staggered and fell. Before losing consciousness, he yelled for help and his cries were heard. The rescuers picked up the two forms and bore them to the cage and they were hoisted to the surface.

Late tonight it was decided to open the main shaft in the morning and to send explorers into the mine in the regular cage.

W. W. Taylor, general superintendent of the mines of the St. Paul company, is a pathetic figure. As he stood today watching the movements to open the mine he made helpful suggestions. Deeply affected he sometimes sobbed aloud. He said the mine was the safest built in this country and that the catastrophe could have happened in no other way than as it did.

**Thousands Attracted.**  
Thousands of persons came to Cherry today from Streator, Mendota, LaSalle, Spring Valley, LaSalle, Ottawa and other towns on special trains.

The story of thirteen heroes who went to death in the blazing shaft and of one man who came back, seared by fire and blackened by smoke to tell the ghastly story, is being related here today in all its details and forms one of the most thrilling narratives in the history of mining in this country.

**Dr. Howe, Hero.**  
Standing out above all the others is the story of Dr. L. B. Howe, the only one of the heroic fourteen who survives to tell what happened. Seven times before other rescuers began to go down into the burning shaft he went down alone in a lift and each time brought to the surface his quota of the saved. Twenty-five miners owe their lives to him.

Today his hands are badly burned, but he shows no other scars. When asked to describe his experiences he said:

"It is not worth talking about. Besides I am very busy today."

The disaster brought out tonight many unnamed heroes. Among these was a miner, who, while fighting his way through the blinding smoke, stumbled across the body of a "trapper" boy overcome at his post of duty at one of the trap doors that controls the air supply.

The miner felt the boy's heart, and finding him still alive picked up the unconscious form and staggered on until he met one of the rescuers. It is believed the miner and the boy reached the surface safely.

All the state mine inspectors from ten districts comprising the coal fields arrived today. Thomas Hud-

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## AFTER SIX DAYS OF TERROR CAIRO HAS QUIET SUNDAY

The funeral service of the late Henry Salmer yesterday morning was the closing incident, for the time being, of the terrible events of last week. Service was held at the family residence on Sixteenth street, Rev. Armstrong officiating. It was a brief, simple service, and impressive withal. Besides the father, mother, brother and sister of deceased there were a number of friends present, and there were some flowers on the coffin. Four pall bearers accompanied the hearse and mourners to the Central Union station, where the party took the 11:15 train for Anna.

At Anna, former home of the deceased, little interest was shown. It was rainy, and a few people were at the station when the party left the train, three or four of whom accompanied the remains and attendants to the cemetery. There was no service at the grave and in half an hour the party returned from the cemetery, taking the evening train back to Cairo.

**YESTERDAY IN THE CITY.**  
It was rainy and very quiet. The expected throngs of visitors from adjoining cities did not materialize. One or two excursions came into the city; but they were small and the visitors did not enjoy themselves. For the saloons were all closed and wandering about in the drizzling rain did not afford much pleasure. They were huddled in groups under awnings much of the time.

Citizens moved about in an ordinary way. The churches were all "rowed morning" and evening, and strong sermons were preached in several of them, bearing upon the topic uppermost in the public mind. The state militia patrolled the streets at times, keeping close watch on the people and their doings. It is understood that two militias will be ordered away today, leaving only Co. K, and it will be ordered out of service tomorrow morning.

**COMPLAINT ABOUT SALOONS.**  
Two complaints were made yesterday to Chief Egan that two saloons located in the central part of the city were selling beer and liquor. Two officers were detailed to make an investigation of the cases, but found both saloons shut tight. One of the proprietors was out of the city yesterday and his bartender was asked some questions by Chief Egan but satisfied him that there was absolutely nothing sold. Chief Egan stated to The Bulletin that he did not know the nature of the evidence Col. Ryan, who reported the matter to him, had, as he had not been able to see the colonel.

**MILITIA ARRESTED NEGRO.**  
A squad of militia arrested a negro yesterday and after examining him turned him over to the police authorities who locked him up in the city jail. When he was first seen he had a quart bottle of whiskey in his pocket and the neck of the bottle showing quite prominently and when asked where he had obtained the liquor, he refused to answer. The squad then searched him and found a big gun on him. He claimed to have come from Union City, Tenn. He was not deemed dangerous by the military authorities.

**Cats Were "Burglars."**  
An incident showing the state of mind of many of the women of the city occurred late Saturday night at the home of Frank Connell, on lower Washington. Mr. Connell is machinist-operator at The Bulletin office and was called up by Mrs. Connell who assured him that there were burglars in the house. Mr. Connell went home to investigate and found two cats in

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## MOBS AND CRIME DENOUNCED IN CAIRO PULPITS YESTERDAY

In several of Cairo's churches yesterday morning and last evening strong words were spoken by way of comment upon the tragedies of last week. The buildings were thronged with interested listeners who seemed to approve what was said, generally speaking. A brief synopsis of what the gentlemen said is here presented:

**REV. OHRUM—CAIRO BAPTIST.**  
Although the gathering at the Cairo Baptist church last evening was not large, neither small, all present were undoubtedly much interested in the words of Rev. Ohrum, the pastor. His entire discourse was on the subject which is uppermost in the minds of the public, and he blamed public conscience for the outbreak Thursday night, which resulted in taking the law out of the hands of the officials and administering it in punishing one of the greatest crimes ever committed.

Rev. Ohrum spoke to the effect that "we have a depraved public conscience. That is, the majority of the community think downward. The public officer acts as the public conscience directs, and the reign of crime and vice is traceable to a depraved public conscience."

The pastor declared that if the real manhood of this community was not exerted in the direction of securing a better enforcement of the laws against criminal classes, mob violence would be occurring often. He said that the military force that was brought here was not necessary; if it was there should be a great "house

## PEOPLE EXPRESS OPINIONS ON EVENTS OF LAST WEEK

**From a Mother of Five.**  
Editor of the Bulletin: According to the viewpoint of all perfectly normal people there is no shadow of disgrace in the treatment that the worse than brute "Frog" received. The disgrace would have been to let the law (?) take its course, and in cold blood await its decrees.

All the cities around us predicted that even this, the most heinous crime ever committed anywhere, words cannot describe the terrible truth—nor the mind could grasp the living death of this pure woman, in the last eight or nine last hours of her life, in a filthy den, then not quite dead, dragged into an alley, where she made one last convulsive effort, clutching at the ground with one hand, and drawing up one knee, there exposed, mutilated horribly, laid until hours after, a little child saw her and ran screaming with fear and fright from the gruesome horror, that had a few hours before been a wholesome, sweet woman, palpitating with young life, would await the slow process of so-called justice. Missouri and Kentucky said they would avenge if Cairo did not. Thanks to a leader, Cairo can claim that she is alive to the best interests and impulses of life.

The coming of the troops was an awful mistake, costing the state good money, sending good money after bad. The destruction of all the low dives that breed pestilence worse than death would have been a blessing, then the money spent on this unnecessary possession of Cairo by regiment after regiment could have been used for some worthy purpose. The negroes who kept this dive was worse if possible, than the frequenters of her place.

The unsatiable love of graft and greed, of worldly ambition has caused a selfishness so corrupt that human life sinks into significance. Saloons, gambling houses, bad houses, are not only tolerated, but encouraged.

Let's impeach our mayor unless he does to the letter what our city government instructs him to do, and all in authority. All the entertainment Cairo really needs is a clean city and the time is ripe.

**A MOTHER OF FIVE.**

**PEOPLE NOT TO BLAME.**  
Editor Bulletin: Noting the various comments and severe censures of the metropolitan press on the events of the history making week just past in our busy city, a few reflections and causes that lead up to such fearful tragedies are not amiss, especially to inform these metropolitan journals with facts, they are not and could not be acquainted with, unless they lived and breathed the same conditions and surroundings as do those on the spot. Let it be said

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## OPINIONS OF THE EDITORS ON CAIRO AND ITS TROUBLES

Nearly every shade of opinion may be found in the press of the country upon the event of last week in Cairo. As a matter of course, comparatively few of the writers have a full, clear knowledge of the circumstances which have prevailed here for some years past and which brought upon this community the sanguinary week just past. The following, selected from a large number of papers that have found their way to The Bulletin's exchange desk are among the most striking:

**"CAIRO REDEEMS HERSELF."**  
(Belleville News-Democrat.)

In Cairo, Illinois, there were wild and weird scenes enacted Thursday night. In ferociously dramatic fashion the infuriated populace staged a tragedy in contemplation of which the entire nation stands aghast and appalled. The pent-up fountains of human passion, human resentment and human revenge broke forth—enveloping, engulfing, destroying.

A so-called mob, without due process of law, executed the negro fiend who from the vilest motives foully murdered an unprotected and helpless innocent white working girl on the public streets and alleys of the city last Monday night.

Every prude and every hypocrite and every sentimental reformer in the country is today hurling his anathemas against the city of Cairo for thus outraging the proprieties and impudently setting the law of the land aside. Public officials will be blamed for not performing physical impossibilities and preventing that which heaven itself was powerless to prevent. Tomorrow the columns of the newspapers will teem with their unctuous and sanctimonious homilies and their stereotyped tommyrot.

Yet the world will move on just the same, and the good city of Cairo will be but little perturbed by the pink tea and custard pie disquisitions.

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